

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 State Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037

Town Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2023 @ 6:30PM

This Meeting is IN PERSON (Town Hall) For Board Members With the Exception of the Occurrence of Extraordinary Circumstances

IN PERSON and VIRTUAL for the Public

Google Meet: meet.google.com/tqz-efzm-xbh Join By Phone: (US) +1 224-814-1308 PIN: 632 413 079#

PRESENT

Supervisor Donal Collins, Councilmembers Vance Pitkin, Abi Mesick, Destiny Hallenbeck, Rick Werwaiss, CAATS Tammy Shaw, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea, Highway Superintendent James Fetzer

- **RECORDING NOTICE**

- Supervisor Donal Collins called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Proposition 3 Passage Dec 2020, to everyone who worked on that
 - CAP ,CLC, CAC
2. Happy Thanksgiving to All
3. CAP harvest dinner at Malden Bridge Community center.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Question-is it possible to get a pedestrian crossing sign in Old Chatham hamlet? Mesick said that the Working Group is working on it right now. Shaw- we can't put crosswalks in without having sidewalks, it has to be sidewalk to sidewalk. Hallenbeck said that there is state money for that.

- **SEQRA PROCESS: Comprehensive Plan Update**

Rappleyea-The Town has declared itself lead agency and conducted environmental assessment according to SEQRA. We'll go through all the questions. Beginning on Part 2, questions 1-18 answering "NO" to all. Basically, we're looking for any item that might have a significant negative impact on the environment.

1. SEQRA Forms
2. **Resolution #192-23: To make a Negative Declaration for SEQRA on TYPE 1 ACTION**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham (“Town Board”) duly appointed a Comprehensive Planning Committee to develop a draft Town comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Planning Committee conducted a study of the Town of Chatham that included a full inventory of physical, natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Planning Committee solicited and utilized the input of the public through a written survey, visioning workshops, news articles, public meetings, focus groups, and multiple public hearings to formulate the plan; and

WHEREAS, this Plan includes the long-term vision, goals, objectives and strategies to guide the orderly growth of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Plan also includes studies of past and present land uses, demographic statistics, public opinions, and recommendations for the Town to use and/or implement in order to reach the stated goals and objectives of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board submitted the Draft Comprehensive Plan to the Columbia County Planning Board as required by NYS General Municipal Law 239-m and the proposed action does not require any other permits or approvals from other State and Federal agencies prior to adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board declared itself Lead Agency and conducted an environmental assessment according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, after consideration of the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part I and Part II finds that

Implementation of plan will positively assist Chatham in reaching goals of maintaining open space, rural landscapes, and the environment.

The plan recognizes natural features and sensitive environmental areas that need protection in the future.

The plan makes recommendations on ways the Town can maintain its agricultural land, historic, aesthetic character and rural landscapes, which are primary goals for the community.

The plan includes an inventory of agricultural land and historic resources and offers general methods to protect these important resources.

The plan recommends implementation of a variety of tools such as strengthening zoning, site plan review and subdivision local laws to protect critical resources and to accomplish the goals established in the plan.

The plan was developed with significant public input. The plan was developed using detailed analysis via a GIS to locate, identify, and understand environmental conditions such as streams, wetlands, steep slopes, floodplains, and soils.

The plan is an environmentally based plan and was developed in large part by understanding development patterns in relation to the environmental features of the town and future policies of the Town were established to protect and enhance these environmental features.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chatham Town Board hereby declares that adoption of the Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan described herein, will not have any significant negative environmental impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes filing of a negative declaration (attached hereto), according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute the Environmental Assessment Form.

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Chatham:

The motion was moved by Mesick, seconded by Hallenbeck

<u>Vote:</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Supervisor Donal Collins	X	
Councilperson Abi Mesick	X	
Councilperson Destiny Hallenbeck	X	
Councilperson Rick Werwaiss	X	
Councilperson Vance Pitkin	X	

• **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: For the Purpose of accepting public comment on the Comprehensive Plan Update**

1. **GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING COMMENTS AT PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- The order of speakers will be chosen randomly, each speaker is allowed 3 minutes
- Speakers may not cede their speaking time to others
- Speakers are not to read from letters that they have already submitted and which are attached to the agenda

2. **READING OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:**

**TOWN OF CHATHAM
Columbia County New York
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Chatham for the purpose of accepting public comment on the Comprehensive Plan Update 2023 on

November 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

IN PERSON at the Town Hall, 488 State Route 295, Chatham NY and VIRTUAL for the Public

GOOGLE MEET: meet.google.com/qqk-drha-pct **JOIN BY PHONE: (US)+1 508-779-6056 PIN: 912 586 055#**

Said Plan is available for inspection in the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours and on the website at chathamnewyork.us.

By order of the Town Board
Dated: October 20, 2023
Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk

3. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:48PM was made by Werwaiss, second by Pitkin and carried.

As per Rappleyea Columbia County Planning said they approve of the Plan and that it's a local decision.

Mesick-suggested a few small changes-its language about hunting and using private lands for the Hunt Club. "starts with private concerns over liability "wants to change language for hunting and hunting clubs. Mesick suggested that we remove the Roads Document from the Update Plan so decisions can be made outside the Comprehensive Plan. Comments have been made at previous meetings about having to update the Roads Report. Werwaiss disagrees and thinks this is appropriate and the Town should go forward with updating the documents working "hand in glove" with the Highway Superintendent. Have a plan on how we deal with roads in the future. This is a planning document as per Werwaiss.

Hallenbeck-make sure people are heard, wants to keep the Roads document (Report) in the Plan.

Pitkin has no problem including it, it's part of the planning process.

Mesick-she thinks it should come out. Do we want a group of 4 or 5 people to make large road decisions, it's like running a second government. That update should be conducted collectively by the highway super.

Hallenbeck-We have a diverse group to make decisions.

She's afraid that document could stand in the way

Werwaiss said that Joe Rickert (Highway Superintendent at the time of the Roads Report) didn't want to have a vote on the Committee. The Roads Committee had 8-9 people that had a good spectrum across the board. .

It really should be the highway department that comes out with the roads report that will come before the Town Board.

Collins and Mesick don't want the Roads Report included in the Comp. Plan Update. Werwaiss, Hallenbeck, Pitkin want to leave it in.

Collins recognized all the members of the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Michael Allen, Tim Mackerer, Destiny Hallenbeck, Abi Mesick chair, Jeanne Bowerman co-chair, Angus Eaton, Evan Young, Jeff Cox, Karen Malena, Donna Staron, Dave Everett,

Allen-thanked the Committee and (it's been a long process) one person in particular, Abi Mesick. who organized all the events and meetings at various locations.

Tal- there are small tweaks, no substantive change therefore it doesn't require another public hearing.

Collins we can adopt later if we want....

-
- **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: For the Purpose of accepting public comment on the proposed borrowing by the Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. to finance the purchase of a new top mount pumper fire truck and the proposed issuance by the volunteer fire company of an obligation to The Bank of Greene County.**

1. **GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING COMMENTS AT PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- The order of speakers will be chosen randomly, each speaker is allowed 3 minutes
- Speakers may not cede their speaking time to others
- Speakers are not to read from letters that they have already submitted and which are attached to the agenda

2. **READING OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:**

**TOWN OF CHATHAM
Columbia County New York
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be conducted by an individual appointed by the Chatham Town Board (the Hearing Officer) in the Town Hall located at 488 State Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037 on November 16, 2023 at 6:40PM in relation to the proposed borrowing by the Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. to finance the purchase of a new top mount pumper fire truck and the proposed issuance by the volunteer fire company of an obligation to The Bank of Greene County.

The obligation is in the maximum amount of \$200,000. The new truck is for the provision of fire protection service in the Town of Chatham pursuant to a contract dated December 7, 2022 between the Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. and the Town of Chatham.

The public hearing and the subsequent approval by the Chatham Town Board of the borrowing and issuance of the obligation are prerequisites to exemption from income taxation of the interest payable under the terms of such obligation, pursuant to section 103 and related sections of, and regulations under, the Internal Revenue Code.

Persons attending the public hearing will be given the opportunity to make oral statements in connection with the proposed financing, and written comments may be submitted to the Hearing Officer at or prior to the public hearing.

By order of the Town Board,
Dated: October 20, 2023
Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk

3. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT

at 7:10PM was offered by Collins.

Mike Rosen thanked the Board for considering their request. We are seeking permission from the board to borrow money. The Town is not incurring any obligation. This will enable us to borrow money at 2% less than the going rate up to \$200,000.00.

Tal- they don't even need our approval or authority or authorization. It's simply under the statute that the Town has to hold a public hearing so that they can proceed.

Pitkin- asked the total cost, Rosen- it's \$750,000.00

4. MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:14PM was made by Pitkin, seconded by Hallenbeck and carried.

• CORRESPONDENCE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Cornell Cooperative Extension | Re: Climate Resilience Vision |
| 2. Cornell Cooperative Extension | Re: Climate Adaptation Workshops |
| 3. East Chatham | Re: Dewitt Brown Cemetery Clean Up |
| 4. Columbia County Housing Coalition | Re: County Housing Survey |
| 5. Old Chatham | Re: Signage |

• SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Broadband Committee- (Councilman Pitkin/Councilwoman Hallenbeck)
Didn't meet.
2. CAP (Chatham Agricultural Partnership)- (Supervisor Collins)
Collins- working on Ag plan which parallels the Comp Plan Update. They hope to present the final document to the Town Board at the December 7th meeting,
3. Harvest Dinner
4. Climate Smart/Action Task Force Committee- (Councilman Werwaiss)
Held a well-attended (13-14 people) presentation on night skies initiative at the North Chatham library. There was an interesting discussion on street lights with the overwhelming sense that people wouldn't mind seeing them go away. Working with grants to apply for PV for the highway garage, working on ways to promote composting the program. Angus- heat pump campaign- we think we have 5 installations allowing for a \$5000.00 grant from NYSERDA. There are further milestones to reach but we can cross reference with the County and we can "double dip". They are working on a plan to achieve the Silver level after getting the bronze certification.,
Mesick- asked if the Free Store would get them points and the Invasives Committee and the Community Preservation Plan? Werwaiss will get answers.
5. Communications Committee- (Councilwoman Mesick)
Just put out the newsletter. FB 1023 followers, Instagram 227 and the Newsletter has 531 subscribers. We'll meet again in December.
6. Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee- (Councilwoman Mesick)
Mesick- Thanks to everyone.
7. Finance & Planning Committee- (Supervisor Collins)
Levow- analyzing Rec. budget and at the end of year they will look at fund balances, try to

develop a framework on large projects. Use the highway project as a guinea pig. They will tour the highway garage tomorrow.

8. Housing Committee- (Councilwoman Hallenbeck/Councilwoman Mesick)
Didn't meet. They have 150+ responses from the housing survey.
9. Parks & Recreation Committee- (Councilman Pitkin/Supervisor Collins)
Pitkin-New tractor arrived. They will meet next week.
10. Grants Appropriations Committee (Councilman Werwaiss)
Climate Smart and Grants Committee are working together on a grant through Climates for Action of Hudson Valley. Tammy Shaw and Bonnie Schoonmaker were a huge help in submitting the Greenway Grant.
11. CAC (Councilman Werwaiss)
They meet on Dec. 20.
12. Invasive Species Awareness Committee (Councilwoman Mesick)
Meet on 27th. They are still looking for help with formatting their handouts.
13. Traffic Safety-had a meeting with the Sheriff, and SGT. McMahon. 4 digital signs came in. deploy them and send collected data to Traffic Safety. Enhanced patrol is almost like our only patrol. The Sheriffs office is down by 10 officers. Other small traffic calming things to look into. Went armed with petitions. Destiny said that she'll take over when Abi leaves office. Werwaiss-legal gorilla action needed. Park on the street instead of in your driveways to slow traffic. . Collins said the Sheriffs have hired some security personnel to free up traffic patrol. Collins and Pitkin spoke to Village representatives, they're looking for work for their officers. They will talk to the traffic group. Funds are available for drunk driving program at no cost to the town. John Howe made mention that the cooperation between this TB and the Village is the best it's ever been in history.
14. Town & County (Supervisor Collins) extensive report is online.

REPORTS ON FILE:

1. Assessor
2. Code Enforcement/Building Inspector
3. Dog Control
4. Environmental Mgt Council
5. Finance Department
6. Highway Department-addition to highway dept. report, Richmond Rd. was graded.
7. Justice Court
8. Office of the Aging Advisory Board
9. Recreation Director
10. Supervisor's Report
11. Town Clerk

• NEW BUSINESS:

1. Crellin Park Equipment Shed Roof
2. Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee
 - Transition to Zoning Committee
There are CPURC members who would like to move over to the Zoning rewrite committee. There is a need for additional members as well.

3. Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board Advertising
Supervisor will do the advertisement writeup. The Board will do the interviews.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Crellin Park: Fiber in the North Pavilion to add eyes to that area
2. Speeding in East Chatham
Rebecca McBride wanted to add their voice to the other hamlets. We developed the petition and stated the situation and suggested some solutions. The response was over whelming, we had over 100 signatures from East Chatham. We have this unique situation of the bridge and the intersection of 295. So that's a big concern.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Question about the composting program. Collins went over the County Digester receptacles program. Collins said the County is working on publicizing this. She asked about the battery box. Collins explained that program.

*Tim Mackerer-West runs a top-notch soccer program. Parking is an issue at the Park. Successful day at the Park getting surveys signed during fall soccer program. Still waiting for survey results from Hallenbeck

*Kate Butler- a lot of people had difficulty getting on to the meeting. She was offended by the language in the plan. She has been disappointed throughout the process of the CPURC how anti-horse this perspective has been. The equine community is a big part of the community. This Plan has failed to recognize that we have a little hub and it's not going to go away and it's actually going to grow over time. Hope that you're not going to add in those nasty little last-minute language, horse people are not elitist.

*Pitkin- responded that he is part of the horse community and he felt that the revisions actually removed some of the offensive language. It is increasingly difficult to find places to hunt for various reasons.

- **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution#193-23: To Approve the Town Board Minutes.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board approves the Town Board Minutes for October 2nd, 5th, 12th and 19th, 2023.

Offered by: Hallenbeck, seconded motion: Werwaiss

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

2. **Resolution#194-23: To Accept the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor's Report.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor Report for October, 2023.

Offered by: Mesick seconded motion: Pitkin

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

3. **Resolution#195-23: To Accept the Financial Abstract as presented to pay the Town Bills.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Financial Abstract #11A as presented to pay the Town Bills.

Offered by: Pitkin, seconded motion: Werwaiss

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

4. **Resolution#196-23: To Authorize Early Payment for NYS Retirement Annual Invoice .**

WHEREAS, the NYS Employees Retirement System Annual Invoice for \$95,371.00 covering the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, has been received, and

WHEREAS, payment of this invoice is required by February 1, 2024 and if the invoice is paid before December 15, 2023 the payment is reduced to \$94,690.00, a savings of \$ 681.00, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the NYS Retirement System invoice for \$94,690.00 to be paid prior to December 15, 2023.

Offered by: Mesick, seconded motion: Werwaiss

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

5. **Resolution#197-23: To Authorize Longevity, Health Insurance Buy-out and monthly Payroll to be paid early**

WHEREAS, the Town Board authorizes early payment of Longevity Bonuses to eligible Highway employees, per Union Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board authorizes early payment of Health Insurance Buy-outs to eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board authorizes early payment of Monthly payroll prior to December 22, 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the Longevity Bonuses, the Health Insurance Buy-outs, and the Monthly payroll to be paid on the December 8, 2023 payroll.

Offered by: Pitkin, seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

6. **Resolution#198-23: To Approve Purchase of (One) Haul Truck for Highway Department**

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Highway has requested that the Town Board authorize the purchase of (One) Haul Truck on Sourcewell Contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board established the “Capital Reserve Fund for Highway” by resolution adopted May 16, 2019, Resolution No. 121-2019, with a Permissive Referendum, for the purpose of such reserve fund to pay for some or all of the costs of acquisition of highway equipment or machinery with a balance to date of \$ 37,139.00, and

WHEREAS, the Unappropriated Fund Balance (DB915) has an overage amount from the DB Fund Balance Policy in the amount of \$ 305,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent requests the transfer of \$300,000 from the Unappropriated Fund Balance (DB915) to the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway (DB878), and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham Town Board accepts the Sourcewell Contract for (One) Haul Truck from Henderson Equipment, 1085 South Third Street, Manchester, IA 52057 for a price not to exceed \$225,000.00 as with \$300,000 transferred from Unappropriated Fund Balance (DB915) to the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway (DB878) and then transferred and expensed from Machinery Equipment Account (DB5130.2).

Offered by: Hallenbeck, seconded motion: Mesick
Fetzer explained that it’s a haul truck. It’s double the capacity of the other trucks.

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

7. **Resolution#199-23: To Advertise for Town Candidates to Populate the Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham (hereinafter “the Town”) has adopted a Community Preservation Plan, Community Preservation Fund and Advisory Board, and Real Estate Transfer Tax, and

WHEREAS, the adoption of of the Real Estate Transfer Tax prompted a mandatory referendum, and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town voted favorably for the real estate transfer tax via ballot measure on November 7th 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board must be established and filled to oversee the preservation funding mechanism sourced by the transfer tax, and

NOW IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby advertises to populate the Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board.

Offered by: Werwaiss seconded motion: Mesick

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Hallenbeck, Werwaiss **NAY:** None Resolution adopted

8. Resolution#200-23: For Approving Issuance of a Tax Exempt Note By The Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. To the Bank of Greene County in the Maximum Principal Amount of Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) Dollars to Finance The Acquisition of a Pumper Fire Truck.

WHEREAS, the Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. (the “Fire Company”), a New York not-for-profit corporation, provides firefighting services within the jurisdiction of the Town of Chatham, New York, for the portion of the Town of Chatham described in the service agreement dated November 2, 2023, between the Town of Chatham (the “Town”) and the Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Village Fire Company is seeking to obtain a loan from The Bank of Greene County by the issuance of one or more notes on a tax exempt basis in an aggregate amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand (200,000.00) Dollars (the “Note”) to finance the acquisition of a pumper fire truck for the Fire Company, to be issued as an obligation the interest on which will be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 150(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Code, interest on the Note will not be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes unless the issuance of the Note by the Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. shall be approved by the Town Board after the Town Board has conducted a public hearing thereon following reasonable public notice; and

WHEREAS, that on November 16, 2023, the Chatham Town Board held a public hearing to consider the approval of the Note, after public notice given in accordance with the Code; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. provide firefighting services within the Fire Protection District within the Town pursuant to a written contract for services entered into pursuant to Section 18 of the Town Law; and the Fire Protection District served by the Fire Company is not serviced by any other fire company or department; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

For the sole purpose of qualifying the interest payable on the Note for exclusion from gross income pursuant to the provisions of Section 150(e) of the Code, the Town Board hereby approves the issuance of the Note by the Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc. in a principal amount estimated not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand (200,000.00) Dollars, provided that the Note shall be an obligation of the Fire Company and not of the Town.

THE NOTE SHALL NOT BE A DEBT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK OR THE TOWN OF CHATHAM, NEW YORK, AND NEITHER THE STATE OF NEW YORK NOR THE TOWN OF CHATHAM, NEW YORK, SHALL BE LIABLE THEREON.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

It's not required under NYS Finance Law

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Donal Collins	VOTING:	aye
Destiny Hallenbeck	VOTING:	aye
Abi Mesick	VOTING:	aye
Vance Pitkin	VOTING:	aye
Rick Werwaiss	VOTING:	aye

The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Mesick-would it be possible to put out help wanted ads to zoning, grants, advisory boards. Tammy has already done so.

Collins asked how the Board feels about a vote on the Comprehensive Plan.

Pitkin-let's move it forward.

Resolution #201-23 Adoption of the Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham is desirous of appropriately planned growth in the Town of Chatham; and

WHEREAS, a Comprehensive Plan is a statutorily recognized instrument under Town Law §272-a for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development in a Town; and

WHEREAS, a properly crafted comprehensive plan assists with the regulation of land use and protects the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chatham Town Board identified that an update was needed to an existing comprehensive plan to properly plan growth and development, protect the environment and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chatham convened a Comprehensive Plan Committee to study the Town and Town, collect data and prepare an updated draft comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chatham retained the services of a professional planning consultant to assist with and prepare a Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Committee engaged in an effort to solicit public and community input into the comprehensive planning process over a multi-year period; and

WHEREAS, the committee with the assistance of its professional planner completed the requested tasks; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the public input and the efforts of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, a Town Draft Comprehensive Plan was prepared and submitted for Town Board consideration; and

WHEREAS, one public hearing was held by the Comprehensive Plan Committee to solicit input from the community as per Town Law §272-a; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the draft Comprehensive Plan and conducted a public hearing thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham has caused to be prepared a Long Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry and taken a hard look at them; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has issued a negative declaration under SEQRA thereby complying with the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has completed requirements of NYS General Municipal Law 239-m by forwarding a copy of the draft plan to the Columbia County Planning Department which approved of the Plan and found no intermunicipal impacts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE

TOWN BOARD OF CHATHAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK:

THAT the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby determines that the “Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan”, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby adopted as the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Chatham.

Offered by Councilwoman Mesick and seconded by Councilman Werwaiss.

Vote:	Aye	Nay	Other
Supervisor Donal Collins	X		
Councilperson Vance Pitkin	X		
Councilperson Abi Mesick	X		
Councilperson Destiny Hallenbeck	X		
Councilperson Rick Werwaiss	X		

Dated: November 16, 2023
Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk
Collins-thank you everyone.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Wendy Carroll- what are criteria of the Comp Plan advisory board. Collins explained. There will be 5 members, at least 1 farmer, some sort of planning and committee experience, conservation experience, and natural resource management experience will be helpful. Town Board members cannot sit on this committee.

Bobseine- is this the same process that goes on with all committees? Collins said yes, they will be asking for letters of interest. *We will be sending out an ad in the morning.* Specifically for the zoning committee, *the* Board will conduct interviews then make their decision. What we've done with the Committees is usually the committee will bring forth someone that they're comfortable working with and then they offer that name to the town board. We'll work it out between the committee's new town board.

Person-airB&B question, Proposed law. State taxes proprietors, they would tax visitors. Putting up eyes in the Park is that because of vandals? Yes.

- **MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

At 8:40PM was made by Hallenbeck, second by Mesick and carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk